

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-22 and 24-26 were pending and examined. Claims 1-12, 18-22 and 26 were allowed. Claims 14-17 and 24-25 were rejected. Claims 14-17 and 24-25 have been canceled and new Claims 29 and 30 have been added. Applicant s respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The rejections of Claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on *Oprescu et al.* is moot in view of the cancellation of the claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 14-17 over *Oprescu* in view of *Spitaels* is moot in view of the cancellation of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-12, 18-22 and 26 were allowed.

New Claims 29 and 30

New Claim 29 recites limitations substantively equivalent to originally presented Claim 6. Consistent with the Examiner's appropriate determination that Claim 6 as originally presented was patentable over the cited references, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claim 29 is allowable.

New Claim 30 recites limitations substantively equivalent to originally presented Claim 21. Consistent with the Examiner's appropriate determination that Claim 21 as originally presented was patentable over the cited references, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claim 30 is allowable.

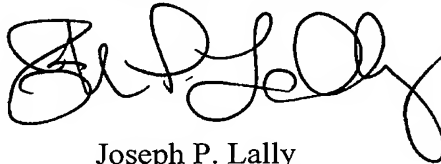
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants have submitted fees herewith. If, however, the submitted fees are insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2680.

Respectfully submitted,
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